

Contacts – Village Organisations

ORGANISATION & MEETINGS		Contact	
1 st Gotherington Beaver Scout	Fri	Ady Joy –	(07795 097704)
1 st Gotherington Cub Scouts	Thu	Sarah Phillips –	(07899 885294)
1 st Gotherington Cub Scouts	Fri	Michelle Rails –	(07748 536510)
1 st Gotherington Scout Troop	Fri	Craig Sprigmore –	(678423)
Membership/waiting list enquiries		membership@1stgotherington.org.uk	
Baby and Toddler Group	Tue, Fri 9.30am	Julie Jukes (07929 767113) and Gemma Carlisle	
Brownies	Mon 6.00pm	Kirsten Stillman (673218)	
Cricket Club		Rob Sharp (678057) / Brian Cosgrove (676216)	
Church of England	Churchwardens (Woolstone)	Richard Reakes (675559) richard.vicarage@gmail.com Sarah Whitehead (674489) / Michael. Bower (672900)	
Football Club (Junior)		Rob Sharp (678057)	
Gardening Club	3rd Wed 8pm	Rob Cronin (321644)	
Gotherington Singers	1 st , 3 rd & 5 th Mon 8pm	Chair Sally Newbury (317276). Secretary: Lesley Nicholls (222853)	
Local History Society	4th Tue 7:30pm	Caroline Meller (677489) / Pat Sory (620681)	
Neighbourhood Watch		John Hicks (676848) / Mary Manders-Trett (674592) Howard Samuels (672492) Les Howard 677949 / Berian Thomas 674397	
Old Chapel Bookings		Bev Osborne (07974101659 oldchapelbookings@gmail.com)	
Oxenton Village Hall Oxenton Village Bookings		Chairman: Jemmy Lockwood (676597) / Secretary: Linda Howard Valerie Martin (673233)	
Parish Council Parish Council Clerk	2nd Wednesday 7.30pm	Howard Samuels (672492) hsamuels@btinternet.com clerk@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk	
Parochial Church Council Secretary		Sarah Whitehead (674489)	
Playing Field/Rex Rhodes Building Bookings		gotherington.org.uk/bookings/	
Petanque Club	Sun, Wed, Fri	Mary Manders-Trett (674592)/Christine Godsell (672821)	
Rec. Club (For Nov 5 th Bonfire)		Gary Thompson (676708) / Robert Swinson (675693)	
Tennis Club		Ian Domnelly (674404)	
Village Hall (Gotherington)	Committee Secretary Bookings Treasurer	Rotating Chairman Kevin Gowing (672240) gotherington.org.uk/bookings/ Howard Samuels (672492)	
Village Hall Coffee Mornings. 1st Sat excl Jan & Aug		Christine Godsell (672821) / Bev Osborne (675741)	
Wine Club 3rd Tue 8pm	Chairperson Secretary	Howard Samuels (672492) hsamuels@btinternet.com Christine Godsell (672821) candegodsell@tiscali.co.uk	
W.I. 4th Wed 7.30pm	President Secretary Treasurer	Sally Newbury (01242 317276) - sally.newbury@gmail.com Rosemary Bishton (677290) - rosemary.bishton1@btinternet.com Myra Card - myracard123@tiscali.co.uk	

GOTHERINGTON TOPICS

Spring 2020 edition



Proud sponsors of Gotherington Topics

Andrews

- Experienced and friendly staff
- Specialist mortgage advice
- Extensive advertising
- Superb display facilities
- No Sale, no fee

T: 01242 675491

E: bishopscleeve@andrewsonline.co.uk

GOTHERINGTON TOPICS SPRING 2020 INDEX

<i>Baby and Toddler Group</i>	<i>Page 3</i>
<i>Brownies</i>	<i>Page 4</i>
<i>Christian Aid Week</i>	<i>Page 8</i>
<i>Church Of England</i>	<i>Page 5</i>
<i>Cricket Club</i>	<i>Page 5</i>
<i>Cobalt Cards</i>	<i>Page 6</i>
<i>Cricket Club</i>	<i>Page 7</i>
<i>Gardening Club</i>	<i>Page 8</i>
<i>Gotherington Nurseries</i>	<i>Page 9</i>
<i>Gotherington Singers</i>	<i>Page 10</i>
<i>Junior Football Club</i>	<i>Page 11</i>
<i>Local History Society</i>	<i>Page 12</i>
<i>Neighbourhood Watch</i>	<i>Page 13</i>
<i>Old Chapel Community Project</i>	<i>Page 14</i>
<i>Garadene Concert – Sunday 29th March</i>	<i>Page 19</i>
<i>Parish Council Report</i>	<i>Page 15</i>
<i>“G-FEST” 10th, 11th and 12th July</i>	<i>Page 16</i>
<i>Online Booking System for Village Facilities</i>	<i>Page 17</i>
<i>Petanque Club</i>	<i>Page 18</i>
<i>Poppy Appeal</i>	<i>Page 19</i>
<i>Tennis Club</i>	<i>Page 20</i>
<i>Village Hall Committee Report</i>	<i>Page 21</i>
<i>Village Hall Coffee Mornings</i>	<i>Page 22</i>
<i>W.I.</i>	<i>Page 23</i>
<i>Wine Club</i>	<i>Page 24</i>

TOPICS OF INTEREST

Topics is distributed to everyone in our three villages in Spring, Summer, and Winter.

The next edition (Summer 2020) is due out around the middle of July.

You can find the most recent edition of Topics on the village website at www.gotherington.org.uk

Contributions for Topics should be emailed to the Editor at gotherington.topics@gmail.com

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Colin Brown		07941 880699
Allen Keyte		674446
Lewis Harmer		671050
Beverly Osborne		675741
Mavis Rear	(Vice Chair)	674470
Howard Samuels	(Chair)	672492
Simon Tarling		677514
David Ward		675080

As at February 2020

Contacts – General

Police	(01452 726920)
Gotherington P.O. & Stores	(672249)
Gotherington Nurseries	(676722) www.gotheringtonnurseries.co.uk
The Shutters	(01242 300240)
Gotherington Primary School	(675454)
Doctor's Stoke Road	(674676)
Cleavelands Medical Centre	(672669)
Hospital Transport (Gill Lofts)	(674129)
GOWNS	(07752 152485)
Village Agent	(07810 630244) or 01452 426868
Borough Councillor Mike Dean	(07973 138043) councillor.dean@tewkesbury.gov.uk
County Councillor Anna Hollaway	(01242 663709) councillor.hollaway@tewkesbury.gov.uk
Garden House Nursery School	(07913256364/01386 81886)
Yoga [Tuesdays] Sarah Martin	(269765) sarahmartinyoga@hotmail.co.uk
Pilates in the Old Chapel Tina Short	(07376051863) tinamari09@hotmail.com

BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

Contact: Julie Jukes (07929 767113)

Since the last edition of Topics, the Baby & Toddler Group has had a busy few months. We had great fun at our Christmas Party complete with a visit from Father Christmas himself! The Paint-It-Yourself Pottery company also visited the group before Christmas and helped the children create some beautiful personal festive gifts. Not to be outdone, the parents enjoyed a well-deserved 'Paint & Prosecco' night out at the Pottery Painting studio, and more recently a delicious meal at the Thai Emerald.

Thanks to those who joined in with our toy clean last month, helping to keep everything as hygienic as possible. We had a good sort out and have been making a few new purchases to try and ensure our toys and equipment stay safe and up-to-date. If anyone has any good quality toys that they would like to donate to the group then please do get in touch.

~~~ This page has intentionally been left blank ~~~

We are planning our annual Easter Party on Sunday 5th April with Easter crafts, entertainment, party food, and of course an Easter egg hunt! We will be arranging another Photo Shoot later in the Spring to hopefully get some lovely outdoor pictures of the children and their families.

We meet in the Village Hall on Tuesday mornings between 9.30 -11.30am and anyone with babies and children up to pre-school age are welcome. Sessions continue throughout school holidays (except August/Christmas). The cost is £2 per family and we provide a large selection of toys, craft activities, drinks and snacks. We finish each week with a story and singing session.

The group is run by parents on a rota basis but we always appreciate any extra support so please do get in touch if you might be able to help out on either a regular or occasional basis – we would love to hear from you!

See our Facebook page 'Gotherington Toddlers' for updates or, if you would like to get in touch, email us at gotherintontoddlers@hotmail.co.uk .

Julie Jukes

GOTHERINGTON BROWNIES

Contact Kirsten Stillman tel 673218 or email gotheringtonbrownies@hotmail.co.uk

Gotherington Brownies remain busy as ever! Last term's Samba Drumming Workshop was a huge (and noisy!) success, with all girls playing the drums and shakers to make a fantastic rhythm. We really enjoyed inviting the Village to the unveiling of our Living Advent Calendar Window – the girls did us proud with their entertaining – playing instruments, singing and handing out hot chocolate and chocolate Brownies. We had 2 magical Christmas trips; first to the Panto at the Everyman Theatre and then to a special screening at Cineworld to see Frozen 2 with hundreds of other local Brownies and Guides.

This term we have been star-gazing and had a brilliant Sixer night, led by the oldest girls with a disco and a pampering session. The girls are working on their leadership skills and will also be carrying out some random acts of kindness to celebrate Thinking Day on 22nd February (the birthday of the founders of Scouting and Guiding). We also have a sleepover at Legoland planned and our summer Pack Holiday at Cowley is taking shape.

We have a great group of young helpers at the moment working towards their Duke of Edinburgh's Awards – the Brownies love having them there to help with the activities. I'd like to thank our adult helpers too, who give up so much time and energy to make the meetings so much fun and help the girls to develop. It is so enjoyable to help the girls and watch them grow in skills and confidence.

Brownies meet on Monday evenings in the Village Hall and is for 7-10 year old girls. Our Brownie pack is currently full, but if you would like to add your daughter to the waiting list then please do get in touch. If anyone would like to come and help out as a Leader regularly or occasionally then please do contact me. Unfortunately Gotherington Rainbows has closed for the time being, but we are hopeful that it will reopen once new leaders have been trained.

Kirsten

~~~ This page has intentionally been left blank ~~~

WINE CLUB

Contact: Christine Godsell on 672821 or candegodsell@tiscali.co.uk
www.gotherington.org.uk/wine-club
www.facebook.com/GotheringtonWineClub

As a new season approaches you might well change your diet and wardrobe but the idea of changing the wine you drink with the season still meets some resistance. People tend to 'like what they like' when it comes to wine, drinking the same bottles right through the year.

Les Howard retired from the Wine Club Committee and also his role as Treasurer and we thank him for his hard work and for keeping us on our toes when it came to spending! Ray Chase has taken over from Les and the other members of the Wine Club Committee are Christine Godsell, Cora Patel, Linda George, Pam Hemingway, Gary Thompson, and Paul Cotter.

Just a quick mention of our Christmas party, which was once again held at the Shutters. It was a great evening and we were entertained by Jon Clare who certainly knew how to get us up on the dance floor and keep us there.

*We had a good year in 2019 and 2020 looks set to be even better. We have a full calendar of events for 2020, including **Back to the 70's** in February and memories will be relived when tasting Chianti, Mateus Rose and many more old favourites. The full programme of events can be found on our web site and Facebook pages.*

Membership has increased again this year and we have kept our membership cost at the same level as the last couple of years. And of course we always welcome new members to the Wine Club.

We meet every 3rd Tuesday (except July & August) at 8pm at the Village Hall. Normally six different wines are on offer to taste and this is followed by a ploughman's supper and a time to relax and chat.

Howard Samuels, Chairperson

NEWS FROM THE VICAR!

Contact: email: richard.vicarage@gmail.com or phone: 01242 675559
Churchwardens (Woolstone): Sarah Whitehead (674489) / Michael. Bower (672900)

There is a very old joke (and my congregation will tell you that I like very old jokes!) that asks, how many weeks are there in a year? The answer is forty-two as the other six are Lent! Not very funny, I agree.

By the time you read this letter we will well and truly be in the middle of Lent. How's it going for you? Have you given up anything like chocolate, alcohol or caffeine? Or have you taken something up like reading a book, attending a Lent group or doing a small act of kindness every day?

Even if none of the above appeals, how about just spending a few minutes each day reflecting on what has happened like the conversations you have had, the people you've met and the tasks you have done, remembering how well things have gone or even those things which didn't go according to plan. But above all things, spend some time being thankful. We are very fortunate compared to large parts of the world and for that we should show some gratitude.

Thankfulness is something that has a positive effect on those around us. It's infectious. When I meet people who appreciate what they have, who they are and acknowledge the good things in their lives, there is something about them that transcends this world. Even when life is tough, there is something we can be grateful for.

St Paul says this to the Thessalonians, 'Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances.'

So give it a go. Spend a few minutes each day giving thanks.

Richard Reakes, The Vicarage, Malleson Road, Gotherington

COBALT CHRISTMAS CARD COLLECTION

Contacts: Abby Punch
abygail.punch@gmail.com

Firstly I wanted to start by saying a **huge** thank you to the residents and friends of the Village for donating their used Christmas cards to the Cobalt Charity in Cheltenham just after Christmas. The response was amazing! I must admit I thought I might manage to fill a few carrier bags, but I had not banked on filling a Mondeo boot full! (and a Mondeo has a very large boot!) Absolutely Fantastic!

An extra special thank you also to Gotherington Store, The Shutters Inn and Gotherington Primary School who all provided collection points, and to my lovely neighbour Mel who helped deliver the boot full of cards!

Cobalt is a charity that focuses on medical diagnostic imaging helping doctors to make a clear diagnosis and appropriate personalised treatment plan predominately for cancer and dementia patients. They also contribute and provide funding for research, leading to a greater understanding of these diseases. This year the money raised by upcycling your cards will be put towards funding Breast Cancer Research Nurses. Last year, an impressive £30,000 was raised simply by upcycling cards!

If you missed the collection this year, I do apologise. It was a last minute idea and I didn't manage to get the word around to everyone. However, since the response was so successful, I plan to do the same next year so keep hold of those cards! Again thank you so much. Your help is greatly appreciated and makes such a difference.

(Note: the Cobalt Unit accepts all types of greetings cards but if you could separate those from the Christmas cards it would be an enormous help).

Abby Punch

GOTHERINGTON, WOOLSTONE & OXENTON W.I.

Contacts President - Sally Newbury (01242 317276) - sall.newbury@gmail.com
Secretary - Rosemary Bishton (01242 677290) - rosemary.bishton1@btinternet.com

Our September speaker (due to talk about the books of John Moore) was unable to join us as his car broke down, but Pat Peak stepped in and entertained us by talking about the Author and reading amusing extracts from his books.

In October, Mike Bottomley gave us a most interesting talk about Katherine Parr, illustrated with slides and animated scenes filmed at Sudeley Castle where she is buried. Also in October, we took part in a huge exhibition in Gloucester Cathedral to mark 100 years of the GFWI. We filled a table with crafts, pictures and items to showcase the activities of our own W.I. alongside those of other W.I.s from Gloucestershire.

November's speaker taught us more about Maggie's Caring Centre and the excellent work it does supporting cancer patients and their families and friends. He talked openly about his prostate cancer and the support from Maggie's that encouraged him to volunteer there.

In December we enjoyed our lovely Christmas Party with good food, good company and highly amusing entertainment provided by a group of members plus a quiz and carol singing.

Our January speaker was Margaret Daniels, the Bard of Barnwood. She kept everyone laughing with her poems and stories – an excellent way to start the New Year.

We enjoy monthly pub lunches, a weekly Art Group, Tai Chi classes and Skittles tournaments. We meet in Gotherington Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on the 4th Wednesday of the month. New members and visitors are always very welcome. Please visit our website to find out more – www.gwowi.org.uk.

We look forward to seeing you!

Jill Parsons

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNINGS

Contact: Christine Godsell on 01242 672821 or email candegodsell@tiscali.co.uk

Following the Christmas break, we had a brilliant coffee morning on 1st February. It was busy, noisy, happy and we struggled to get you all seated. Yes, it was that popular.

For those of you who are new to the Village or have not yet wandered along to coffee mornings – let me tell you a bit about it. There is no affiliation to any group or religion and all our profits go towards the maintenance of the Village Hall. This is a morning for anyone, any age, where you can come into the hall for free, buy exceptionally well priced coffees, teas, juice, delicious bacon rolls and wonderful home made cakes (provided by whichever group is on duty that month). We get a great variety of cakes but I can guarantee there will always be something you like. It is a perfect place to chat, catch up with friends and with neighbours you may not have seen for a few weeks. Children are welcome and we have colouring books to keep them occupied while you chat. Footballers and Cricketers are welcome too – just please remove football boots at the door. Or you may want to collect something and take it outside, particularly on a sunny day or if watching your children playing in a match.

We promise to never hassle you to purchase extras; we never hold a raffle – but we do have our paperback books for you to select from at just 50p each. There is also an honesty box in the hall if you want to pick up a book when you attend your regular meetings. And do feel free to bring us paperback novels (not hardback) so our stock changes regularly.

If you want to come along but have difficulty getting there – just let us know and we may be able to arrange a lift for you.

*What's not to enjoy? Will we see **YOU** on the first Saturday of each month? I hope so.*

Christine Godsell, *Gotherington Village Hall Coffee Mornings*

CRICKET CLUB

www.gotheringtoncc.org.uk

Contact: Brian Cosgrove on 676216 or info@gotheringtoncc.org

The winter is a tough time for cricketers, saved partially if you have access to a TV Channel that can beam in pictures from sunnier climes. England's tour of South Africa proved to be a welcome distraction during what has been a very wet winter. However all was not lost on the playing front when one of our players did play some cricket, representing Uruguay in Peru at the South American Championships in October!

This "International tradition" was established way back in the 1890's when legendary England batsman Gilbert Jessop turned out for Gotherington, and continued in the 2000's when we had a guest appearance from South African T20 International player Christiaan Jonker. So we are excited that this Summer there is a chance that an ex Australian Test Cricketer could also make an appearance - watch this space.

We have had some initial Winter nets under the watchful eyes of our two new joint skippers Andrew Shakespeare and Olly Mallory. A big thank you to Will Banwell who has performed this role for 4 years and will now be continuing as a player.

Edward Gillespie has been busy finalising an excellent fixture list. We will once again be hosting the Royal Household Cricket Club, and have a series of mid week 20/20 games and a September tour to Devon.

Brian and Yvonne will oversee the ongoing development of youth cricket, with their unstinting enthusiasm.

Anybody who is keen to get involved as player, administrator, umpire, scorer, groundsman, fundraiser, coach or supporter is more than welcome as any additional help is always appreciated and it can be a lot of fun.

Rob Sharp, *Chairman GCC*

GARDENING CLUB

Contact: Rob Cronin (321644)

www.gotherington.org.uk/gardening-club

Since WW2 the U.K. has lost 97% of its natural bee and butterfly habitats due to a combination of industrialization of farming, pollution, climate change, parasites and a loss of biodiversity; bee and butterfly populations are seriously on the decline. Approximately two thirds of the crop plants that feed the world rely on pollination by insects and other animals: bees are amongst the hardest working creatures on the planet.

Growing a small area of wildflowers in a border, or even in pots is a great way to help these pollinators. There is a range of products on the market from simple wildflower seed mixes, make-your-own seed bombs and ready-made bee bombs (pellets of clay containing native wildflower seeds that you simply scatter on unprepared ground or old compost in pots).

So - if you want to contribute to biodiversity and have a positive but vital impact on your local bee and insect populations (as well as having a beautiful display of native wildflowers this year) you need to start sowing this Spring! If you'd like to join us for a free taster session, we meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (except August) in the Village Hall and talks start at 8 p.m.

April 15th "Finding the angle at Chelsea" by Mandy Bradshaw award-winning journalist

May 20th "An Evening with Reg Moule" – horticulturalist and BBC broadcaster

Kate Button

CHRISTIAN AID COLLECTION

This year's Christian Aid collection week will be from 10-16th May. Would anyone who would be happy to help please contact Kirsten on 673218.

GOTHERINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Contacts: Kevin Gowing - Secretary (01242 672240 e: kevin.gowing@gmail.com)

Howard Samuels - Treasurer (01242 672492 e: hsamuels@btinternet.com)

Bookings: gotherington.org.uk/bookings

Website: <http://www.gotheringtonvillagehall.btck.co.uk>

Work continues towards the re-establishment of the Management Committee as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Further documents are deemed necessary to finalise the project in conjunction with the Parish Council so we hope to have this change in place in the near future.

Various repairs and general maintenance work have been carried out over the last few months both inside and out. The Hallmaster booking system is now working well and the Codelock on the front door is proving user friendly after some initial teething problems concerning time settings.

Access to the Hall is now only by a 4 digit code and if anyone has a key to the Hall please would you return it to Howard Samuels. A doorbell has also now been installed. One of the large tables that belong in the Hall is missing so if anyone knows of its whereabouts please contact a Committee Member.

Several new projects are being investigated including installation of a Wi-Fi system, which may encourage more groups to use the Hall. Updates to kitchen equipment and seating are also being considered. Terms and Conditions for hiring the Hall have been amended to cater for modern needs and booking arrangements. There are still spaces for long-term hire, particularly on Fridays. Details can be found on the website.

The Village hall is important to the life of our Village and the Management Committee is constantly working to maintain and improve the quality and variety of the facilities available so that as many people as possible find it a suitable venue for their event. The more people that use the Hall the easier it is to pay for the improvements and maintenance that keep it in good condition.

Mary Manders-Trett, Acting Chair

GOTHERINGTON TENNIS CLUB

Contact: Ian Donnelly on 674404
<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/GotheringtonTennisClub>
<https://www.facebook.com/GotheringtonTennis>

As you read this, hopefully the rain has finally called time on Gotherington and Spring is just around the corner. The unseasonably mild Winter has caused serious issues with moss down on the courts, so a big thank you to the hardy men and women who have given up their weekends in February to de-moss and clean the courts. They are now primed and ready for the season ahead so why not dust down that old Dunlop racket, put new laces in the tennis shoes and get down to Gotherington Tennis Club?

Junior tennis returns to the courts in March, having spent the Winter months at the indoor facility at Winchcombe. We cater for 2 age brackets as follows: Ages 5-8 from 9:00 to 9:45; Ages 9-12 from 10:00 to 11:00

These sessions, run by club coach Liam Gough, have proved extremely popular, however we still have availability so please contact me if you are interested or see the details on our new website (see top of the page).

We run 2 men's and 1 lady's team in the Gloucestershire Summer Leagues but the Club caters for all standards of players with the emphasis on fun and enjoyment for all

Annual fees are £70 for adults, £10 for juniors and reduced fees for veterans. Included in the subscription is access to the Club coaching scheme, which runs throughout the season.

Summer play commences on Sunday 31st March as follows:

<i>Monday Evening</i>	<i>from 18:00</i>
<i>Weds Evening</i>	<i>from 18:00</i>
<i>Fri afternoon</i>	<i>from 13:30 – 15:30</i>
<i>Sunday Morning Juniors</i>	<i>from 09:00 – 11:00</i>
<i>Sunday Morning Adults</i>	<i>from 11:00 – 12:30</i>

Ian Donnelly

NEWS FROM THE NURSERIES

www.gotheringtonnurseries.co.uk
Contact: Phone 01242 676722

The glasshouse is full of early Spring colour with home grown primroses, polyanthus, pansies, Spring flowering bulbs, planted containers and hanging baskets. The shrub area has a wide range of trees, shrubs, roses, soft fruit bushes, cottage garden plants and rockery plants.

For container gardening, we have wooden barrels, terracotta, plastic pots, and glazed pots. We stock a comprehensive range of specialist composts including peat free and Carr's special organic compost and soil improver and a range of decorative gravels too.

For the grower, we have seed potatoes, onion sets, shallots, garlic bulbs, flower and vegetable seeds as well as Summer flowering bulbs. Our "grow your own" products include a range of cold frames and propagating equipment. We have a good choice of plant care, lawn care and garden care products. We have a great range of specialist bird care products too.

Have you joined our reward scheme? The more you spend the greater the reward. Application forms are available at the till and rewards can be earned immediately. If you have a Toddington Garden Centre reward card, it can still be used at the Nurseries where the voucher can be spent too.

*Come and look at the beautiful plants, planted containers and other gift ideas we have available for **Mothering Sunday** (22nd March) and **Easter** (12th April). We are open Monday to Saturday 9 am – 5 pm and Sunday from 10 am – 4 pm. However, we will be **closed Easter Day** (Sunday 12th April). Please visit our website at www.gotheringtonnurseries.co.uk or see our Facebook page for regular updates.*

We would like to thank you for your custom and look forward to seeing you during the season ahead. Happy gardening!

Mark and Liz

GOTHERINGTON SINGERS

Contact: *Sally Newbury (Tel. 317276)*
Viv Nicholson 0124 523168 or 07976624736
www.gotheringtonsingers.co.uk

As well as our Monday practices at 7.45 p.m. at Gotherington Village Hall, we now practice at St. Nicolas' Church in Swindon Lane on alternate weeks.

Our Choir continues to flourish with several new members joining us after our recent Open Singing events.

Our Christmas concert on 14 December at St. Nicolas' Church was very successful, and we all enjoyed the contributions from our two young soloists: Soprano - Hannah Wilson-Autzen and Darcy Beck, a talented Percussionist. We were pleased to support HEADWAY and raised £400 for this worthwhile charity.

In January, we were sorry to say goodbye to our Musical Director, who has gone on to undertake some exciting new opportunities. We are seeking to appoint a new Musical Director to lead and develop our friendly choir, but in the meantime are being ably led by Rachel Hobby our very talented accompanist and Viv Nicholson our excellent Deputy MD. (More information about the vacancy for our Musical Director is available on the website or by contacting me - sall.newbury@gmail.com)

New members are always welcome to join (no experience necessary) so do come along to one of our practices or contact us for more information.

The Choir is available to sing at weddings, funerals, parties etc. You can find more information about the Choir and how to contact us on our website – www.gotheringtonsingers.co.uk and on Facebook

We look forward to seeing you at one (or all) of our events.

Sally Newbury

GADARENE IN CONCERT

Sunday 29th March, at 7.30pm, Gotherington Village Hall

Five piece band, Gadarene, make ancient tunes modern, creating a sophisticated and exciting performance drawing on many diverse musical influences, creating a sound that is all their own. They blend obscure traditional English tunes, virtuoso acoustic musicians, funky beats and loads of energy.

The band takes little known dance tunes of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and gets audiences dancing to them again. These amazing tunes bring together influences from Pop, Rock, Funk, Reggae, Electronica and Club Trance producing a sound which is sophisticated enough for seated audiences and wild enough for those who want to dance.

We are fortunate to be included in Gadarene's Spring and Summer West Country tour so don't miss them. Tickets cost £10 and are on sale now in Gotherington Stores, by phoning 01242 674114 or on the door.

POPPY APPEAL

Contact: *Brian Cosgrove on yvonnecosgrove@btinternet.com*

2019 Poppy Appeal Final Result

The Poppy Appeal raises funds to help servicemen who return badly injured and their families, and also assist the families of those who, sadly never return. Last year the total raised by the Village was £1930.81.

This is a great result and speaks volumes for the generosity of the Villagers and also the hard work of the Collectors who give their time freely. We would like to express thanks to the Collectors and those Businesses and Institutions that had collection boxes on their premises.

This year is the 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE75). The commemorations for both VE & VJ day will be part of the national remembrance for this year.

Many thanks to everyone.

Brian & Yvonne Cosgrove

GOTHERINGTON PETANQUE CLUB

Contact: Mary Manders-Trett on 674592 or Christine Godsell on 672821
www.gotherington.org.uk/petanque

We have not stopped playing at all through the Winter, even though some days have proved quite chilly with that breeze coming up the field! It is not so easy to throw the balls in any meaningful direction when wearing thick coats, scarves, hats and gloves, but somehow we managed and it often gives us even more to laugh at and Tilley's ducks seem to know the appropriate moment to join in with the laughter.

We have a few new players and welcomed them with open arms. Fresh blood is always good for a Club so if you now find you have some time on your hands, come and see us and discover what we get up to. We can find you some boules to begin with so there are no excuses. You don't even need a partner - we split randomly into doubles or triples so you won't play with the same people every time.

As usual, we will have a full programme of events throughout the Summer months which sharpens our competitive spirit a little, provides great social opportunities and still allows us to not take ourselves too seriously and also to enjoy playing. You can always telephone a member of the Committee or any of the other players to get some ideas and assurances if you want to, or just turn up at the times mentioned on the back of Topics.

We are looking forward to some sunny days – come and join us.

SEE YOU ON THE PISTE!

Christine Godsell Secretary

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

Contact: Rob Sharp on 01242 678057 or rob_sharp100@hotmail.com

The Club has again maintained FA Charter Club status and continually strives to improve the coaching levels we can provide players. We aim to provide an environment for all players, spectators and coaches to enjoy the game. We have a Schools Liaison Officer and all Coaches and Assistants are CRC checked and have to complete Child Safeguarding courses alongside their First aid and coaching qualifications.

We visited the impressive St Georges Place England Training Complex to see the facilities and also participate in an FA coach led training session.

We have a hard working Committee but many of those currently involved no longer have children at the Club, so we do need to help the next generation of managers, parents and administrators take on more responsibility to ensure the successful development of the Club. On that note we would like to thank Bhavna Amlani for her hard work as Child Welfare Officer and welcome her replacement Magda Taylor.

We are now running our first ever Girls Team under the management of Stewart Peters covering u9/u10 age bracket. They are doing very well and have achieved some noteworthy results against more established sides

We held an end of season "Funday" back in June which was very well attended and gave everybody a chance to see the scale of the Club while awards were handed out and lots of fun games played. Since then, the weather has proved to be very wet and some sides have a backlog of several fixtures. We have tried to utilise "astro" pitches when available but the increased costs are considerable.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of any Club, from marking the pitches, raising funds and behind the scenes admin, to running coaching sessions and match days. If your son or daughter is involved in the Club please take every opportunity to help - it will be greatly appreciated.

Rob Sharp, Chairman and Secretary GJFC

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Contacts: Pat Sory (620681) / Caroline Meller (677489)
www.gotherington.org.uk/history-society/

Talks

Our programme of talks continues this season with an eclectic mix of topics. On Tuesday 24th March, Andy Meller will give a presentation on the lives and works of the Dymock Poets, then at our April meeting 'Hailes Abbey: Holy Monks and Holy Blood?' will be the focus of David Aldred's talk.

The LHS is keen to encourage local history research so in May there will be three local talks: the presence of the Americans in the area during WW2; an outline of the Water Project which is nearing completion; and a look at vintage newspaper articles for Gotherington, Woolstone, and Oxenton.

These talks will all be at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to come along to any talk. Admission is £3 which includes refreshments plus an opportunity to browse through a wealth of local history books.

May Monthly Coffee Morning

The LHS will be hosting the event on Saturday 2nd May. We endeavour to provide a mix of cakes using recipes from different periods of history, so an interesting variety will be on offer.

Outings

Following on from a successful outing to Bletchley Park last June, the LHS is busy planning a couple of trips for this Summer. Once members have been given the opportunity to sign up to these, we would like to offer places to local residents, so please keep an eye on our web site and social media channels for details (Facebook & Twitter).

Caroline Meller, Secretary

HOW TO BOOK COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Contact : gotherington.halls@gmail.com

A new booking system (aka Hallmaster) was introduced in 2019 which is now being used to book all community facilities in and around the Freeman Field. These facilities are:

- The Village Hall
- The Rex Rhodes Building (RRB)
- The John Woolley Pavilion (JWP)
- Tennis Courts 1 and 2
- The Lower and Upper Football Pitches
- The Village Marquee.

Hiring is very straightforward and the Hallmaster system can be accessed either via the "Bookings" tab on gotherington.org.uk or directly at gotherington.org.uk/bookings.

Both these links will take you to the on-line booking page which shows details of how to proceed and from there you can display the options available to make a booking.

First time users of the system will need to set up an account in order to make a booking. This is quite straightforward and there are some (limited) instructions at the bottom of the web page to help guide you through the booking process. However, if you have any questions, please send an email to gotherington.halls@gmail.com.

Hallmaster Administration Team

GOTHERINGTON "G-FEST"

Three Summer Evenings of Musical Entertainment

Save the Dates 10th-11th-12th July 2020

Plans are afoot, phones are ringing, papers are rustling and your entertainment team is brimming with ideas! So many people enjoyed the musical evening entertainment at last year's Fete that we thought we would build on that success and have a whole weekend of music in Freeman Field spread over three nights in July.

Friday 10th will be a "**Village People**" event. A fun evening of entertainment from our own pool of talent! Lots of ideas for this one, including an early evening children's "Mini Pop Idol". Get in touch if you want to join in! More details to come...

Saturday 11th: Live Musicians, Hog Roast, BBQ and Bar. A magical evening with professional musicians, fire pits and fairy lights.

Sunday 12th: Picnic in the Park with a Classical Music theme.

The event will be staged for the Village and is not for profit. We hope to cover the cost of the event with tickets priced at £10 (valid for all three days) but we are also looking for sponsors – private or business.

We have only a small team working on this at present so we would welcome any ideas that you may have and also invite you to get involved.

Please let me know if you would like to play a role and help with this event by emailing me at hsamuels@btinternet.com or phone 672492.

Howard Samuels

WANTED LIST – CAN YOU HELP?

Curtain Sided Trailer for Stage

Hay Bales for seating

Event Sponsors

Wood for Fire Pits

Gazebos

Musical Talent!

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

www.gotherington.org.uk/neighbourhood-watch

Contact: John Hicks (Long Furlong Park) 676848, Mary Manders-Trett (Malleston Road) 674592 Howard Samuels (Shutter Lane) 672492

Report a Crime - Contact the Police:

Reporting an emergency 999 or 112 Reporting non-emergencies 101
Bogus Callers 0300 123 2040 Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111

Cold Calling:

There has been a spate of Cold Calling recently, which is disturbing and unsettling. Cold calling is the act of making uninvited visits to a Resident's home to sell goods or services.

Cold calling is not illegal. However, any Trader that ignores a sticker or notice on your door stating that you do not wish to receive cold calls may be committing a criminal offence. Also, any Trader that ignores any requests by you to leave and not return is committing a criminal offence.

We are currently working with Tewkesbury PCSO's on the possibility of making Gotherington a "No Cold Calling Zone".

Burglaries:

Homes with no security measures in place are five times more likely to be burgled than those with simple security measures. Good window locks and strong deadlocks can make a big difference. So:

- Lock your doors and windows every time you leave the house.
- Hide all keys, including car keys, out of sight and away from the letterbox
- Install good outside lighting
- Get a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your property
- Leave radios or lights in your house on a timer.

Lots more advice can be found on the following website www.police.uk/crime-prevention-advice/burglary/

Howard Samuels

THE OLD CHAPEL

Contact: Andy Stillman 673218 gotheringtonoldchapel@gmail.com
www.gotheringtonoldchapel.org.uk

Since the last edition of Topics, the Old Chapel Grants Committee have enjoyed tremendous success in obtaining a total of £70k in grants. This includes £50k from the Enover Community Trust, £10k from the National Lottery, £7k from the Garfield Weston Foundation and £3k from Allchurches Trust.

The focus is now on the refurbishment of the Old Chapel, with essential works likely to begin before the Summer to replace the roof and address causes of damp.

We still need more funds to complete all of the required work, so we are applying for additional grants and have just launched a new initiative: 'New Tiles for The Old Chapel'. Everyone will have a chance to make their mark whilst raising funds for the new roof.

An Auction of Promises, hosted by Edward Gillespie OBE, will take place on March 20th and is sure to be a special evening. The Old Chapel Trustees have worked with the Arts in Rural Gloucestershire to bring the band Gadarene to the Village Hall on March 29th (see separate Topics entry).

Regular events include Gotherington Film Club, the Traditional Games Club on the 1st Sunday of the month 2-4pm and Café Church – 3rd Sunday of the month from 10.30. January saw our first ever Bingo Night, which was a huge success – look out for details of more Bingo Nights. Why not hold your party at the Old Chapel? To hire: call 07974 101659 or email oldchapelbookings@gmail.com.

Andy

GOTHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Contact: Howard Samuels (672492/07707467736) or
Clerk@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk
www.gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk,
www.facebook.com/GPCNoticeboard

Another application has been made to build on 'Cook's Field (aka The Meadow). This is an almost identical application to the one submitted three years ago and as we all remember Tewkesbury Borough Council unanimously rejected the application.

Currently, no details are available about when this application will go forward to the Planning Committee at Tewkesbury. Keep up to date by visiting the GPC web page or Noticeboard.

Grass cutting within the area of Freeman Field has finally reached a satisfactory conclusion on all sides. The Parish Council have agreed new terms with Tewkesbury Borough Council (Ubico) who will cut the main field 25 times in the grass growing season with contributions towards the cost from both the Cricket and Football Clubs.

Work on the restoration of the War Memorial is ongoing but, as it is a listed grade II structure, we are having to seek professional advice from the Borough Conservation Officer. We will ensure regular updates are posted on our web site.

We are in constant touch with Highways on the state of Malleson Road particularly the area towards the A435, which is in an extremely poor state of repair.

The Parish Council welcome your views and comments and if you feel inclined to become a Parish Councillor then please contact the Clerk

Parish Council meetings are now held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Rex Rhodes Building (RRB) at 7.30pm

Howard Samuels, Chair of the Parish Council